

Petition S4-0016-0500, filed on behalf of Florida shrimp producers.

Background:

On March 29, 2004, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced that shrimpers in Florida were eligible to apply for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program, as the result of a petition filed by the Southeastern Fisheries Association. The FAS Administrator found that imports of farmed shrimp had contributed importantly to a 24.5-percent decline in the price of shrimp in Florida during the 2003 marketing year (January - December), when compared with the previous 5-year average.

In order for TAA benefits to remain in place for a subsequent year, the TAA regulation specifies that the Administrator shall determine whether or not further increases in imports contributed importantly to a 20-percent or more decline in producer prices from the original 5-year base period. This determination is made prior to the anniversary of the initial certification

Analysis:

USDA evaluated import data for shrimp compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data revealed that imports of shrimp products declined 2.1 percent or 11.4 million pounds in 2004. Preliminary anti-dumping duties imposed on the imports from six major suppliers of farmed shrimp during the summer of 2004 and a weaker U.S. dollar may have contributed to the decline in imports.

Reason for not re-certifying the petition:

To qualify for TAA, increases in imports of articles like or directly competitive with the commodity covered by the petition must contribute importantly to the decline in the producer price. Because imports did not record an increase, the petition was not re-certified, and notice was published in the Federal Register on April 18, 2005.